

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS21215C1

The intent of this resolution is to communicate to the President of the United States, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, the United States Congress and the U.S. Congressional delegation for Idaho concern that the Secure Rural Schools legislation has not been re-authorized. This has caused critical instability in funding for county road budgets and local school districts.

The resolution further sets out the Community Forest Trust Concept formulated by the counties of Shoshone, Boundary, Clearwater, Idaho and Valley as a possible alternative for national forest land management and asks that a pilot project to determine the feasibility of the concept be included in a re-authorization of Secure Rural Schools.

FISCAL NOTE

While there is no fiscal impact of this memorial to the state's general fund, if the Secure Rural Schools and Self Determination Act is not re-authorized and no other financial support is sent, counties and school districts will be financially impacted by a loss of at least \$31 million federal dollars each year that is used for schools and county roads in 34 counties across Idaho. Further, the Community Forest Trust Concept, if enacted could provide a more stable stream of funding, bolster the economies of forested counties while addressing critical forest management issues on federal forest lands in Idaho.

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